

# 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) Count Report

Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care

## What is the PIT Count?

The Point-in-Time (PIT) Homeless Count is an annual street and shelter count that determines the number of people experiencing homelessness in Maricopa County during a given point in time. Conducted on a single day in January, this project includes a brief survey to identify the needs and characteristics of those experiencing homelessness. Every Continuum of Care is required to submit PIT Count results to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as part of a national effort to identify the extent of homelessness across the country.

## Why is it important?

The PIT Count is an important source of data on homelessness, and is reported to Congress as part of the Annual Homelessness Assessment Report (AHAR). The PIT Count is a source of unsheltered homeless numbers and helps to inform communities on the number of people who do not access services such as Emergency Shelters or Transitional Housing at any given point in time. As the number of people experiencing homelessness continues to rise across the region, increased regional efforts to address homelessness are necessary.

The PIT Count is a one-night snapshot of homelessness that is limited by weather conditions, number and training of volunteers, self-reported survey responses, and other factors. There are more people who experience homelessness over the course of the year than on any given single night. Every year, the Continuum of Care works towards improving the count's accuracy. The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care is committed to using data from the PIT Count and the regional Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to understand more about the population experiencing homelessness in the region and to provide solutions that will make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring.

## Growth Rate from 2022-2023

Total PIT Count

**+7%**

Unsheltered Count

**-2%**


Sheltered Count

**+18%**

The sheltered count increased at a **higher rate** than the unsheltered and overall PIT Count.

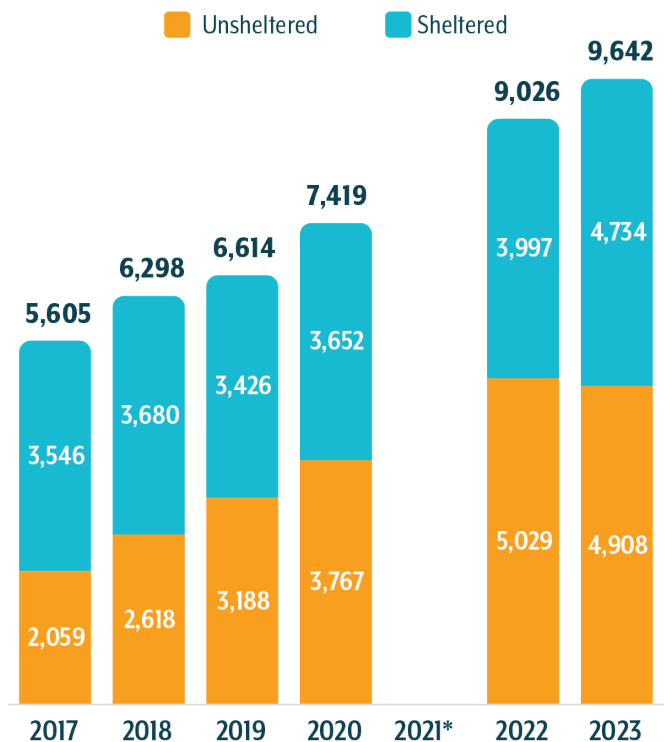
## 2023 PIT Count Total

**9,642**  
people experiencing homelessness  
in Maricopa County on the night of  
January 23, 2023

  
**49%**  
**Sheltered**  
in Emergency Shelter,  
Transitional Housing,  
or Safe Haven Programs

  
**51%**  
**Unsheltered**  
on the streets or other  
place not meant for  
human habitation

## Total PIT Count, 2017-2023

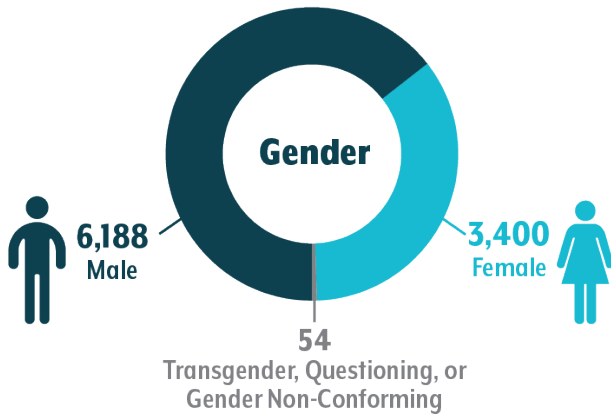


Source: Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care PIT Count, 2017-2023

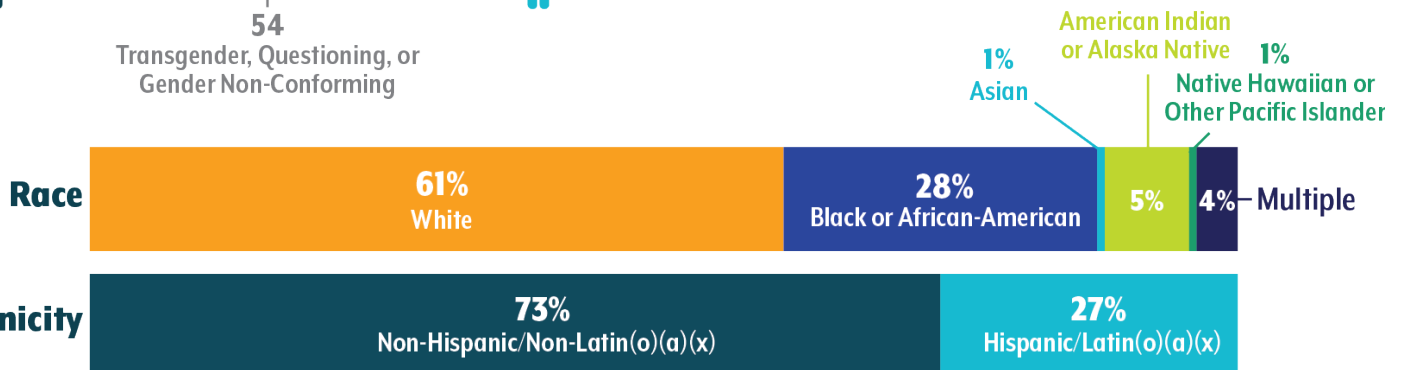
\*The PIT Count was not conducted in 2021 due to the pandemic

# Demographics

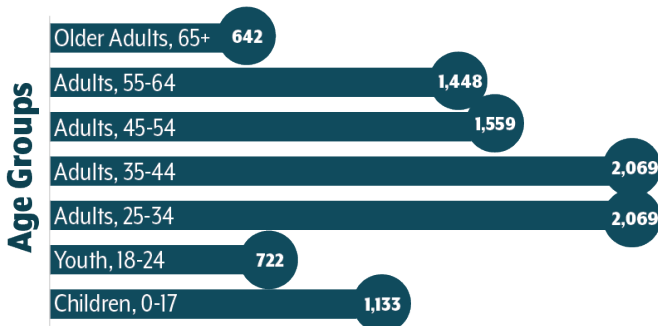
The demographics of the PIT Count have been fairly **consistent** over the past years. These charts show data from the 2023 PIT Count.



For the 2023 PIT Count, 64% of the population experiencing homelessness identified as male, 35% identified as female, and 1% identified as either transgender, gender non-conforming, or questioning. The proportion of gender has remained the same for the PIT Count throughout the years. The PIT Count had a larger proportion of the population that identified as male than Maricopa County's average of 49.7% from the 2021 American Community Survey (ACS) estimate (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2021 1-year estimate).



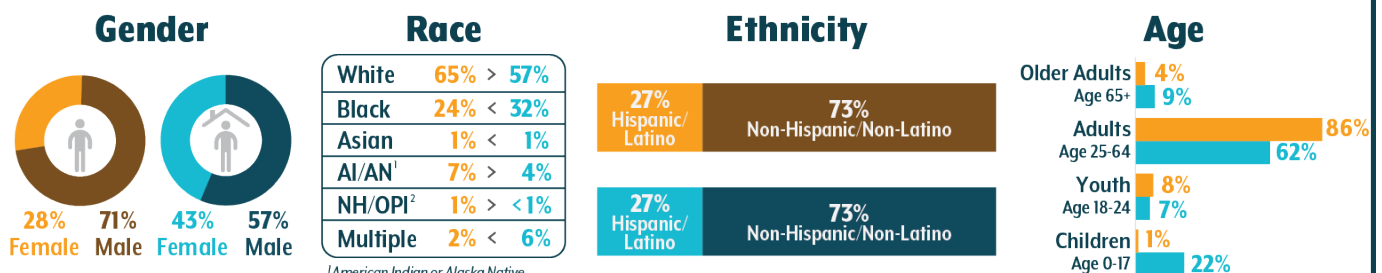
Over the years, a significant majority of the PIT Count has identified as White and Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x). By race there has been a slight decrease in the White population and American Indian or Alaska Native, while there was a slight increase in Black or African-American. The 2023 PIT Count reported a differing racial makeup than Maricopa County. The 2021 ACS estimate reported the following numbers for Maricopa County: White (58%); Black or African-American (6%); Asian (4%); American Indian or Alaskan Native (2%); Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander (<1%); and Multiple Races or Other (30%). The PIT Count also has a higher percentage of people identifying as Non-Hispanic or Non-Latin(o)(a)(x) compared to Maricopa County (68%).



This year, age categories were expanded for adults 25+. The largest age group from the PIT Count is adults 25-34 and adults 35-44, which each accounted for 21% of the 2023 PIT population. Children (age 0-17) make up 12% of the population, while youth (age 18-24) and older adults (age 65+) each make up only 7% of the count. 81% of the PIT Count are adults age 25+, a higher percentage than the ACS estimate for Maricopa County, 68% (U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 2021 1-year estimate).

## Comparison: Sheltered and Unsheltered Populations

Legend: Unsheltered (Orange), Sheltered (Blue)

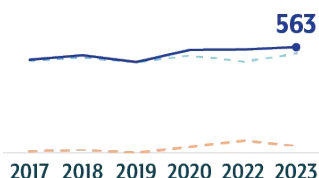


<sup>1</sup>American Indian or Alaska Native  
<sup>2</sup>Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

# Special Populations

**Legend** solid line Total dashed orange line Unsheltered dashed blue line Sheltered

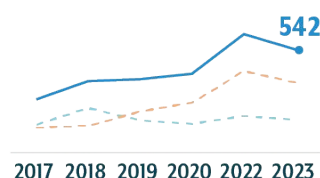
## Families



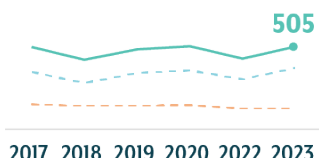
**The 2023 PIT Count identified 563 families experiencing homelessness, with a total of 1,924 persons in families.** From 2017 to 2023, the number of families has increased by 14%. Families are defined in this report as households with at least one adult and one child. Almost all families identified from the PIT Count were in either emergency shelter or transitional housing. Families may be hard for volunteers to identify during the PIT Count due to tendencies to stay in vehicles or other hidden locations. Family service providers reached out and conducted interview surveys over the phone to better count the number of families experiencing homelessness.

**Youth ages 18-24 are considered a vulnerable population, and the number has increased in the past few years.** Youth are also a challenging subpopulation to identify during the PIT Count. To account for this, homeless youth service providers have participated in the planning and survey process over the years to better understand this subpopulation and to capture the number of unaccompanied youth.

## Unaccompanied Youth, Age 18-24



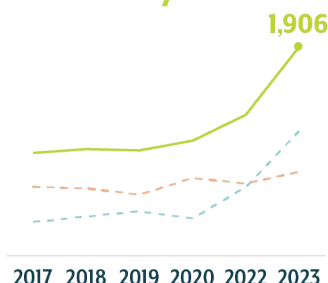
## Veterans



**The number of veterans experiencing homelessness increased 20% since 2022.** The number of veterans experiencing sheltered and unsheltered homelessness on the night of the count has gone up and down over the years. This year, the number of unsheltered and sheltered veterans both increased. It is important to note that veteran status is self-reported for the PIT Count.

**The number of people who meet the chronic homelessness definition has significantly increased over the years.** From 2017 to 2023, the total number of chronically homeless has increased by 103%. This year the chronic unsheltered number has increased by 17% since last year while the chronic sheltered number has increased by 81%. *The HUD definition of chronic homelessness is: (1) a person who lives in a place not meant for human habitation, Safe Haven, or Emergency Shelter; (2) has a disability, and (3) has been homeless continuously for one year OR four or more times homeless in the last three years, where the combined length of time homeless is at least 12 months. When a head of household meets this definition, all household members are counted as chronically homeless.*

## Chronically Homeless



**The PIT Count also collects information on other subpopulations** based on self-reported, voluntary responses:

### Additional Populations

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2022	2023
<b>Mental Illness</b>	866	903	966	965	1,022	1,333
<b>Substance Abuse (Alcohol/Drug)</b>	711	1,228	1,116	1,110	1,104	1,220
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	60	80	117	157	135	149
<b>Domestic Violence</b>	1,154*	425	805	576	470	637

\*Prior to 2018, the PIT Count collected data on 'Survivors of Domestic Violence'; in 2018, this field changed to 'Fleeing Domestic Violence'.

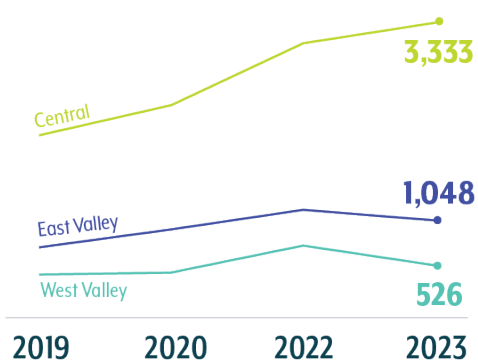
# Regional Trends

## Unsheltered Count

In 2023, unsheltered homelessness decreased. However, from 2019 to 2023, unsheltered homelessness in the Maricopa County region increased by **54%**. In the Central subregion (Phoenix), the growth rate in unsheltered homelessness was **64%**. In the East Valley, unsheltered homelessness increased by **42%** and in the West Valley, it went up by **25%**.

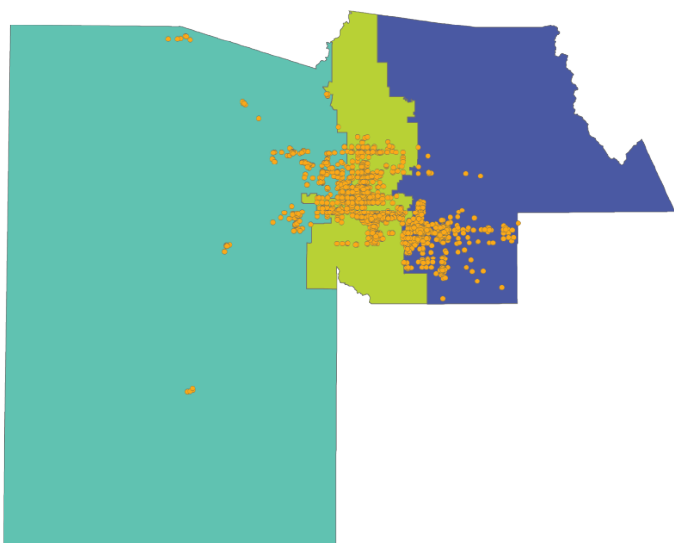
Subregions: West Valley Central East Valley

### Unsheltered Count by Subregion



Subregion	2019	2020	2022	2023
Central	2,030	2,380	3,096	3,333
East Valley	736	944	1,170	1,048
West Valley	422	443	755	526

### Locations of 2023 Unsheltered Surveys, Maricopa County



A more detailed map of the Unsheltered PIT Count is available online at: <https://www.azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>

### Unsheltered Count by Municipality

Municipality	2019	2020	2022	2023
Avondale	35	56	59	45
Buckeye	24	41	32	60
El Mirage	7	9	9	26
Gila Bend	4	4	11	7
Glendale	194	170	406	170
Goodyear	22	23	30	22
Litchfield Park	0	0	0	0
Peoria	78	83	115	92
Sun City	n/a	12	32	4
Surprise	33	29	46	67
Tolleson	5	5	7	7
Wickenburg	2	0	0	6
Youngtown	18	11	8	20
Phoenix	2,030	2,380	3,096	3,333
Carefree	0	0	0	0
Cave Creek	0	0	1	0
Chandler	54	75	133	115
Fountain Hills	0	0	1	2
Gilbert	2	9	15	17
Guadalupe	21	22	64	75
Mesa	206	338	451	366
Paradise Valley	0	0	0	2
Queen Creek	4	2	7	1
Scottsdale	76	102	114	64
Tempe	373	396	384	406
Uninc. MC*	n/a	n/a	8	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,188</b>	<b>3,767</b>	<b>5,029</b>	<b>4,908</b>

\*Unincorporated Maricopa County is excluded from the subregions.

### Additional Survey Questions

Was your homelessness caused by:

COVID-19 pandemic?

 **247**  
said "Yes"

Rent increase?

 **440**  
said "Yes"

Do you have any pets? How many?

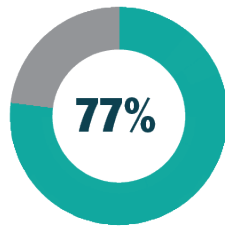
 **439**

Source: 2023 Unsheltered PIT Count interview surveys

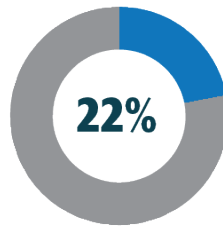
## Sheltered Count

Most people experiencing sheltered homelessness during the 2023 PIT Count were in Emergency Shelters. The majority of Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, and Safe Haven\* programs are located in Phoenix.

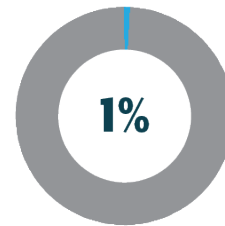
### Emergency Shelter



### Transitional Housing



### Safe Haven\*



### Sheltered Count by Subregion

Subregion	2019	2020	2022	2023
Central	2,548	2,755	2,942	3,569
East Valley	672	698	943	1,092
West Valley	206	199	112	73
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,426</b>	<b>3,652</b>	<b>3,997</b>	<b>4,734</b>

There is a question on the unsheltered survey asking why people do not seek shelter services. Of those who responded to the question, the top two reasons reported were “previous negative experience with shelter” and “shelters full.”

\* Note: Maricopa County no longer has “Safe Haven” projects, however, certain veteran Grant Per Diem beds are required by HUD to be reported as Safe Haven for the PIT Count.

## Additional Data

The **Homelessness Trends Report** is an infographic report summarizing quarterly trends in homelessness data. Data comes from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and includes metrics on clients/households served, system flow, demographics, subpopulations, and an overview of system performance measures. [azmag.gov/Homelessness-Trends](http://azmag.gov/Homelessness-Trends)

**System Performance Measures (SPMs)** are metrics that are reported to HUD by our Continuum of Care, designed to measure progress towards resolving homelessness. The SPM dashboard shows trends for Maricopa County by annual submissions going back to 2018, and by quarter for the last year. [azmag.gov/CoC-SPM](http://azmag.gov/CoC-SPM)

The **Housing Data Explorer** is an interactive dashboard visualizing data for the Phoenix-Mesa-Chandler Metropolitan Statistical Area (Phoenix MSA) which includes Maricopa County and Pinal County. Data on this dashboard includes median sale price, apartment rent, evictions, cost burden, and distressed properties. [azmag.gov/Housing-Data-Explorer](http://azmag.gov/Housing-Data-Explorer)

## Methodology

Every year, hundreds of volunteers, staff, and outreach workers participate in the PIT Count across the Maricopa County region. The unsheltered count relies on interview and observation survey responses. All cities and towns except for Phoenix do a direct census count. The City of Phoenix uses an extrapolation method that identifies high and low density grids. High density grids are counted via complete census, while a random sample of low density grids are counted and extrapolated. PIT Count volunteers

use a mobile app to submit electronic surveys for each person they encounter. Due to its ease of use, volunteers are able to complete more surveys using the mobile app. The sheltered count comes from the region’s HMIS and service provider surveys to verify the number of beds and occupancy rates for each program. Missing demographics are extrapolated from known information using the HUD PIT Extrapolation tool.



Special thanks to the 2023 PIT Count Municipal Coordinators, volunteers, staff, and outreach teams that put in time and effort to make this a successful count; Solari for collecting and verifying provider data for the Housing Inventory Chart and Sheltered Count; the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care for their support of this annual count; and to those experiencing homelessness who were willing to speak with us about their experiences. For more information, visit <http://azmag.gov/Programs/Homelessness/Point-In-Time-Homeless-Count>



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